

By: Harris of Anderson

H.B. No. 624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency medical transport by fire fighters of certain patients.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 773.0043 to read as follows:

Sec. 773.0043. FIRE FIGHTER EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS; MEDICAL TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT PROTOCOLS. (a) In this section, "fire fighter" means:

(1) an individual who is defined as fire protection personnel under Section 419.021, Government Code; or

(2) an individual who is a volunteer fire fighter certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 773.041, a fire fighter, regardless of whether the fire fighter is licensed as an emergency medical services provider, may transport a sick or injured patient to a health care facility in a vehicle other than an emergency medical services vehicle if:

(1) the appropriate emergency medical services provider:

(A) is notified of the patient's clinical condition; and

(B) is unable to provide emergency medical

1 services imminently at the patient's location; and

2 (2) the medical treatment and transport protocols for
3 the patient's apparent clinical condition authorize transport of
4 the patient in a vehicle other than an emergency medical services
5 vehicle.

6 (c) Each emergency medical services and trauma care system
7 shall develop the medical treatment and transport protocols
8 necessary to implement this section for the area covered by the
9 system and provide notice of the protocols to the emergency medical
10 services providers and fire fighters in that area.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2024, each emergency
12 medical services and trauma care system shall develop medical
13 treatment and transport protocols necessary to implement Section
14 773.0043, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, and provide
15 notice of the protocols to the emergency medical services providers
16 and fire fighters in the area.

17 SECTION 3. Section 773.0043, Health and Safety Code, as
18 added by this Act, applies only to transportation provided on or
19 after January 1, 2024.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.